
The Communist Parties of America

[events of Sept. 20, 1920]

Document in the DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA collection M-1085, reel 931, doc. 202600-774.
Article published in *Pravda* [Petrograd], Sept. 22, 1920/
Translation by the United States Department of State, Riga office, with slight editorial polishing here.

At the sitting of the Executive Committee of the Third International on September 20th [1920] under the Presidency of Zinoviev, the American Question was discussed owing to the arrival of Comrade N.G. [Nikolai Gurvich =Nicholas Hourwich] from America.

Comrade N.G. [Hourwich], representative of the Communist Party of America, stated in his speech that the Executive Committee of the Communist International was not sufficiently informed about the actual situation in America when it decided the question regarding [the two Communist parties]. There are not only differences of organization between [the two] parties, but also differences of principle. The masses, which have joined the one or the other party, are the same, but the leaders of the United Communist Party (the former Communist Labor Party), according to Comrade N.G. [Hourwich], belong to the Center, similar to the German Independents. Comrade N.G. [Hourwich] complained that the United Communist Party had been given preference, in spite of the fact that it is smaller than the Communist Party of America.

Agreeing in principle with the former decision of the Executive Committee regarding the American parties, Comrade G. [Hourwich] re-

quested that the following amendment be passed: To postpone the deadline for the unification of both parties until February 1st [1921] and temporarily to admit to the Executive Committee [of the Communist International] a representative of the Communist Party of America.

Comrade Bukharin, in replying to Comrade N.G. [Hourwich], said that they, the Executive Committee, highly esteemed the Communist Party of America, as it is a real American organization which has a great role to play in the American revolutionary movement owing to the fact that it represents a purely American element. Comrade Bukharin objected in principle to an alteration of the already adopted decision of the Executive Committee, but believed it possible to make some concessions with regard to the postponement of the deadline for the unification of both parties.

After short discussions the following resolution, proposed by Comrade Zinoviev, was accepted: (1) To postpone the deadline for the final unification of the two parties in America until January 1, 1921; (2) The Executive Committee demands the union on the basis of the decisions of the 2nd Congress of the Communist International.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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